

APPROVED

Minutes

Vestry Meeting – Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Present: Fr. Richard, John Grant, Diane Nichols, Susan Howland, Nancy Waugh, Lynn Garland, Rose Reith, Tamsin Lucey, Lorraine Brumskine, Lana Pieczynski, Peg Nelson

Fr. Richard opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with prayer.

Bible Study – Stewardship insert: Welcoming Children with Boundless Joy

Business

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the August vestry meeting minutes.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the August Treasurer's report. Susan reported that the work being done now, which includes brick repointing and baseboard heating, will amount to about \$15,337. She suggests taking that money out of the savings fund, which is currently at about \$58,000. This will leave a balance of about \$43,000 in that account and would preserve the building fund at \$7,153 for short term needs. Going forward, we need to be looking at the big picture, perhaps a capital planning committee, to determine the best use of these funds.

Rector's Items

Fr. Richard reported that the Bible Study with Bethlehem Lutheran Church for the fall season will begin with a tutorial on how to read the scriptures, with a look at larger sections of text and how themes are developed. This will involve a short video and discussion and then reading from Mark's Gospel for 30 minutes followed by 30 minutes of discussion on what we heard. The study will begin on September 19 at 6:30 at Holy Trinity.

The New Jim Crow book focuses on segregation and the practice of mass incarceration, separating people of color from their freedoms. Fr. Richard would appreciate feedback from the vestry about this book for the next Holy Trinity bible study. He thinks that those who were in the first study group are emotionally exhausted and, therefore, not ready to take it on at this time. In any event, Fr. Richard suggests that we get and read the book.

Meredith will fill in for Fr. Richard on Sunday, September 16.

Eileen would like to have a liaison with the vestry to keep her informed of upcoming events. Diane is willing to do that and will work with Family Worship as to their needs.

On September 30 Pedro Aponte will speak about St. Luke's Guesthouse. He can use sermon time and then people can bring questions to him at coffee hour.

Events

The parish cookout was well attended and people seemed to stay longer. Clean up and set up were manageable because leftover food was divvied up and dirty dishes were taken home by the owners.

Eileen did have assistance for the Salvation Army Family Fun Day. Family Worship likes to participate in community events involving other kids. Eileen would like to engage parents who do not have little children. As liaison, perhaps Diane can help determine what is working and what is not and what is needed for the kit.

For the October 21 Revival in Worcester, Chris Bolte will determine how many have signed up and will work on getting enough tickets for all. Carpooling will be coordinated. Meanwhile, Susan will check with the diocese about whether livestreaming of Bishop Curry's Pittsfield service will be available. If so, she is willing to set it up.

The Diocesan Convention will be attended by Fr. Richard, John and Susan Grant. They will see to their own registration.

Building and Grounds

Tamsin reported that the brick repointing is in progress and branches have been lopped. A roof slate is missing leaving a hole in the roof over the sacristy. Susan will contact Cole Contracting to have their roofer quote for the repair and an overall check of the slates. She will email that quote to the vestry. Peter Lucey and Dave Demings will replace 2 feet of missing leaf guard. The baseboard heating is nearly completed. Tasse will resolve some issues with the incorrect sizing of the heating covers.

A policy has been written for Church Use of Parish Premises. Once Peg has proofed this policy, it will be put into effect.

For approved short-term rentals (a few hours use), Greg is willing to be the opener/closer/set-up/tear-down person for up to 3 hours at his current rate. The money for this expense would come from the rental. **A motion was made, seconded and approved for Greg to provide up to 3 hours at his current pay rate to open/close/set-up/tear-down for approved short-term rentals. A contract will be written to reflect this fee.** This may involve restructuring our rental fees.

If in the future we can rent the undercroft for long-term use, we would hire a liaison between the renter and the vestry.

Greg is willing to snowblow this winter for \$25 less than Howie had charged.

Stewardship

If there are no objections, Nancy will again use the TENS stewardship program. This year's theme is Transforming Generosity. The ingathering and vestry brunch will be on November 18. To coordinate with UTO Sunday, on October 14 Diane will be one of the weekly speakers.

Prayer Garden

Lynn reported that the Prayer Garden Committee has established a \$500 budget. She expects much of this money to come through donations, perhaps in coordination with the 150th celebration. Susan explained that there is also money from income from the Legacy Fund, which is to be used for special initiatives. The committee will work with Chris on getting the word out. Cat will do much of the work, with help where needed.

UTO

Diane is considering having a Harvest Festival ingathering on October 14 for the UTO offering. She hopes to involve Rose for a food pantry ingathering.

International Dinner

A motion was made, seconded and approved to support an International Pot Luck dinner on November 10, as proposed by Lorraine. We will be asked to bring a dish to serve at least 5 people that reflects our ancestral heritage. Also, it would be nice to have some entertainment, perhaps a poem, a song or something else prepared by parishioners to share their heritage. Held in the undercroft so that we can use our china and dishwasher, the dinner will begin at 4:30 with plans to eat at 5. We will need a set-up and clean-up crew.

Closing prayer – Prayer for the Parish

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Next Vestry Meeting October 10, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Peg Nelson, Clerk